



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, February 10, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers/ZOOM

Commissioners Present: Chandlor Collins, Milton Cole, Dr. Rich Salas, Tiffany Berkenes, Andrew O’Leary
Commissioners Absent: Lonnette Dafney, Shaimaa Aly
Staff Representative: Hannah Guck (zoom) and Audrey Kennis
Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman
Guests:

- **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:33p.m.
- **Roll call**
- **Opportunity for public to address the Commission**
- **Approval of January 2022 Minutes**
 - Commissioner Milton Cole motioned to approve. Commissioner Tiffany Berkenes seconded; minutes approved.
- **Staff Report**
 - Audrey Kennis gave an update to the Commission. Core DEI team was reconfigured and received 32 applicants which 15 will be chosen, but also allowing other individuals to participate. Early March will be the first meeting.
 - IDI an assessment that gives a baseline measure to the organization as a whole. Our City Directors and Council will be participating the IDI as well. Kennis is also formulating a DEI Advisory Committee with 10 community partners.
 - City plans to host a Juneteenth Celebration and hoping to receive funding through Bravo.
 - Community institute in the Fall – a collaborative effort with commission and DEI office – create a 6wk institute target marginalized communities within the City.
 - Audrey has been going to Valley High to meet with their CORE team and students each Friday.
- **Council Report**
 - Renee Hardman gave an update to the Commission. Acknowledged Black History month and gave it recognition. We need to take time to pause and celebrate the wins.
- **Report from Commissioners on recent activities**
 - Civic Center Students came together & celebrated history.
 - Tiffany stated individual reading, learning & advocating from our legislation and to engage youth diversity within the STEM and technical fields for the 4H youth around March/April of 2022
- **Old Business**
 - **MLK Day Celebration**
 - Rich updated the Commission. The celebration was a great success and viewed it on live stream from Chamber of Commerce. Based on the surveys and feedback it was a well-attended and successful event. The students were highlighted and recognized. Greater Des Moines Partnership was able to engage in the celebration.
 - Renee stated standing room only at the new facility – The table discussions were beautiful and full of impactful statements.

- Audrey added that the planning team did an incredible job.
- **Commission Member Photo/Business Cards**
 - Group photo will be taken at the March 10 meeting. Business cards will be ordered soon & the website information is being prepared.
- **New Business**
 - **Attendance for Commissioners**
 - Chandlor mentioned having parameters or guidelines regarding attendance. Commissioners need to be present and participate, to instill a protocol that produces consistency within the Committee. The Commissioners discussed the attendance for each Commission member, their role, and expectations.
 - Renee Hardman will contact fellow Commission members who are not able to attend on a regular basis. The application for Human Rights Commission does imply meetings are to be attended.
 - **Sponsorship request**
 - Hardman is seeking to have an ad in the book that would highlight the Human Rights Commission mission and role and what we do in DM/WDM. The event is May 19-22 at the downtown Hilton in Des Moines. Tiffany stated it's a great opportunity to be involved.
 - Milton motioned to move the requested sponsorship amount from \$350 to \$750 dollars to sponsor the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Conference. Tiffany seconded. 5 ayes. Motion approved.
 - **Budget Update**
 - Tabled
 - **Upcoming Sponsorships**
 - Chandlor motioned to donate \$1000 to Iowa Safe Schools until further information is given before moving forward with \$1,000 contribution. Tiffany seconded. 5 ayes
- **Next meeting date: March 10, 2022**

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.
Commissioner Chandler moved to adjourn; Commissioner Rich seconded.

Minutes by: Hannah Guck, Staff Representative